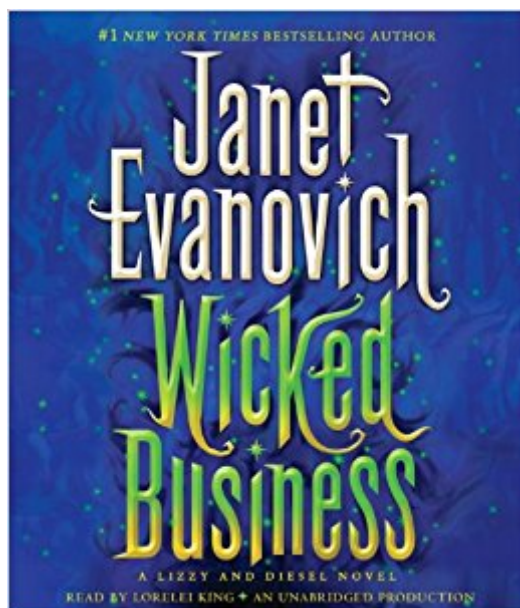


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Wicked Business (Lizzy And Diesel Novels)



Synopsis

Janet Evanovich, mega-bestselling author of the beloved Stephanie Plum series, is back and better than ever. Her novels, hailed by GQ as "among the great joys of contemporary crime fiction," deliver rollicking adventure with crackling wit and hilarious mayhem. And, now, one of the hottest writers today returns with dynamic duo Lizzy and Diesel to prove that when hunting down bad guys, the real fun is in the chase. When Harvard University English professor and dyed-in-the-wool romantic Gilbert Reedy is mysteriously murdered and thrown off his fourth-floor balcony, Lizzy and Diesel take up his twenty-year quest for the Luxuria Stone, an ancient relic believed by some to be infused with the power of lust. Following clues contained in a cryptic nineteenth-century book of sonnets, Lizzy and Diesel tear through Boston catacombs, government buildings, and multimillion-dollar residences, leaving a trail of robbed graves, public disturbances, and spontaneous seduction. Janet Evanovich does it again and gives us another exciting un-put-down-able read that is striking a chord with readers everywhere!

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Praise for Janet Evanovich "No less than her plotting, Evanovich's characterizations are models of screwball artistry. . . . The intricate plot machinery of her comic capers is fueled by inventive twists." "The New York Times" "[Evanovich's novels are] among the great joys of contemporary crime fiction." "GQ" --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

Janet Evanovich is the #1 New York Times bestselling author of the Stephanie Plum novels, twelve romance novels, the Alexandra Barnaby novels and graphic novels, *Wicked Appetite* (the first book in the Lizzy and Diesel series), and *How I Write: Secrets of a Bestselling Author*.

Wicked Business by Janet Evanovich is the second romantic-mystery in her hilarious new *Wicked* series. The books follow Diesel, the man with unmentionable powers that was first introduced to use in the Stephanie Plum books, and his partner Lizzy Tucker, a cupcake baker that also possesses the power to detect enchanted objects, as they roam Salem in search of the 7 SALIGIA stones that represent the 7 sins. Their search for the stones gets complicated by Diesel's cousin Gerewulf Grimorie (Wulf), who also has unmentionable powers and is searching for the stones; Steven Hatchet, Wulf's minion that also has the power to detect enchanted objects; Lizzy's job at the bakery and life in general. In this book we find Lizzy enjoying a day off from work when Diesel appears in her house set to sweep her off onto their last adventure. He whisks her away to a murder scene where Diesel's pet monkey Carl finds the first clue setting them on a chase to track down the Luxuria stone (lust) before Wulf can get his hands on the stone. To find the stone they must unravel a set of magically set clues that can only be deciphered by someone with a certain purity. The problem is that neither Diesel nor Lizzy have what it takes to decipher the clues. They are forced to enlist the help of Lizzy's co-worker Glo, who thinks she has wizard tendencies, since she can decipher the clues. Involving Glo makes matters more complicated with her spell casting that usually doesn't work out the way they are intended. If dealing with Glo's spell-casting and trying to stay ahead of Wulf and Hatchet wasn't enough now they have the mysterious Anarchy, another person with unmentionable powers, vying for the stone. Anyone that enjoys mystery, romance, fiction or just a good humorous book will enjoy reading *Wicked Business*. You will find that once you pick up the book you will have a hard time putting it back down. The action is fast paced and the situations will keep you laughing. The only problem you may have with the book is that it is over way too soon and leaving you wanting more. Once again with this book Ms. Evanovich shows why her style of mixing mystery, romance, humor and eating has kept her at the top of the bestseller list.

Did you read and enjoy Janet Evanovich's book "*Wicked Appetite*" where we met newcomer Lizzy Tucker who had just moved to town to work in a bakery making the most gorgeous sounding cupcakes only to discover she holds a supernatural talent and landed with Diesel - her new supernatural partner, Carl the monkey and Wulf - a bad guy and Diesel's cousin. Lizzy has been paired up with Diesel to find the Seven Stones that represent the Seven Deadly Sins and destroy

them otherwise all hell will break out on earth and literally too. In Book #1 we saw Lizzy and Diesel find the Stone of Gluttony and now in *Wicked Business* the pair must find the Stone of Lust. Though this one is working out a bit harder than the first as the original owner has turned up dead - it looks like suicide to the normal human eye but to Lizzy and Diesel it smells like murder and not by a human either. With the key in Lizzy's possession it's a race for the clock to retrieve the Stone of Lust before it falls into the wrong hands of Wulf and his renaissance sidekick who dresses like a Shakespeare wannabe. I personally didn't enjoy this one as much as *Wicked Appetite* and I am not sure whether to accredit it to the fact that it was a bit slow for my liking or to the fact that I have been reading a lot more of Janet Evanovich than I had in the past when I read the first book.

This book is like her other books. There is some repetition, but on the whole it is enjoyable. There are laugh out loud parts and they are worth the read alone. I got the feeling of Stephanie Plum a few times, sort of like a *deja vu*. Her next book in this series is due out in June. I will get it because I enjoy the humor. I will only stop reading them when it seems like they are all the same. A few good laughs are golden as far as I'm concerned.

Being a devoted Stephanie Plum fan, I purchased *Wicked Business* in hopes that this novel would "hold me over" until the release of the much anticipated *Notorious Nineteen*. Without a doubt, Janet Evanovich is my favorite author of all time and I have even imagined that I could someday write a novel with Janet as my inspiration. With only my desire to be an author but with none of the actual skills or education, I came up with a great idea....take one of my favorite historical romances - change the names of the characters and places and create a new but similar storyline. In other words, basically rewrite the same story and give it a new name. Genius! How hard could it be? Right? Thankfully, better judgement prevailed, not to mention the fact that plagiarism is not as easy as it sounds, and I eventually abandoned my idea to rewrite the next great American novel. Sadly, I feel that this is exactly what Janet Evanovich has done with *Wicked Business*. She has taken the same wonderful characters, given them new names and places and we, as her devoted fanbase are expected to buy into the storyline like we've never read it before. Sadly, Lizzy Tucker comes off as a Stephanie Wannabe, while Diesel misses as the magic equivalent to Joe, and Wulf is not even a sloppy second to Ranger. Let's not even mention Carl the monkey jumping ship from Jersey to Salem in the author's attempt to add a touch of what we love best about Stephanie and the gang. You can't improve on perfection and Janet I still believe you are the best, but in the future, I'll wait patiently for my next "Stephanie" fix and skip the rewrite.

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